

South Dakota Legislature

State Capitol, 500 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

January 22, 2002

Renata Hesse - Trial Attorney
Antitrust Division
US Department of Justice
601 D Street NW - Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

RE: Public commentary in *U.S. v. Microsoft* settlement

Dear Ms. Hesse:

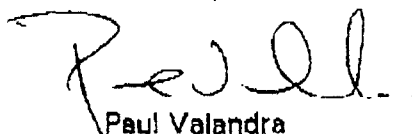
Public service, for me, means investing my time and energy to help improve the quality of life for the people in my legislative district. That is why I have served as a member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Council, and as a State Senator for 10 years, and now as a State House member for my second year.

My legislative District 27 is home to the Pine Ridge Reservation and the Rosebud Reservation, where you will find two of the poorest counties in the entire United States, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. My district is filled with kids who want to do well in school so that they can make a good life for themselves as adults. Everybody is encouraged by our Governor's program Wiring the Schools because it brings wide band, high speed Internet capabilities to our schools. But it is discouraging when you visit the schools and see kids waiting their turn to use systems which are slow, dilapidated and not up to the standards of systems used by kids in other parts of the United States.

That is one important reason why I support the settlement agreement, because it will bring updated systems, software and support to the schools in my district. Another strong point is the fact that this antitrust case has been fully scrutinized and debated for four years in the federal court system, and the settlement agreement speaks to all of the significant issues which have survived the court process. I have enough faith in the U.S. Justice Department to know that this settlement is a good one, or it would not have signed off on the agreement.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my opinion on this important settlement.

Sincerely,


Paul Valandra
State Representative